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ABSTRACT

This book examines the unhealthy and enduring obsession with standardized testing in the United States and how this tool of the meritocracy affects all U.S. residents, from kindergarten to job seeking. Why standardized testing continues to dominate the educational system is explored, as is why standardized testing is such a pervasive influence in the workplace. Some proven alternatives to testing are discussed. The chapters are: (1) "Meritocracy's Crooked Yardstick"; (2) "Inventing Intelligence: The Origins of Mental Measurement"; (3) "Babes in Test Land: The Sorting Begins"; (4) "Crusade: Rise of the Test-Driven Accountability Machine in Our Schools"; (5) "Crime and Punishment: How the Accountability Machine Hurts Schoolchildren"; (6) "Great American Dumb-Down: How the Accountability Machine Harms Schools"; (7) "Do No Harm: Stopping the Damage to American Schools"; (8) "Unnatural Selection: Testing in the American Workplace"; (9) "Standardized Minds: Thinking Styles and the Testing Game"; (10) "The Big Business of Testing"; (11) "Authentic Achievement: Assessing Performance in American Schools"; (12) "Harmful Admissions: Why the Meritocracy Needs Fixing"; and (13) "Beyond the SAT: Merit That Matters." (Contains 312 endnotes.) (SLD)

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